

Participation in international conference: As a step towards creating awareness on the project and its objectives; building capacity and establishing new and strengthening old linkages, members of the project participated in various international events.

FORIS Supports the 25th Philippine Biodiversity Symposium, Calapan City, Oriental Mindoro, The Philippines

The 25th anniversary of the annual **Philippine Biodiversity Symposium** with the theme “25 Years of Collaborative Biodiversity Conservation in the Philippines: Global Relevance, Local Realities” was organized by the Biodiversity Conservation Society of the Philippines (BCSP) and hosted by the City Government of Calapan, Oriental Mindoro, and the Mindoro Biodiversity Conservation Foundation, Inc. (MBCFI) in partnership with DENR-USAID’s B+Wiser Project, UNEP-GEF funded FORIS Project of the Biodiversity Management Bureau (BMB), the Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office of Oriental Mindoro and Bat Conservation International. The five days symposium was held from 5 - 9 April 2016 with a total of 250 international and local participants. FORIS Philippines gave part of financial support and participated by presenting papers and displaying FORIS activities and publications in an exhibition booth. The Project was represented by Dr. A. Sivapragasam Annamalai (IPC, FORIS project), Dr. Titiek Setyawati (NPC, FORIS Indonesia), Mr. Seng Rathea (NPC, FORIS Cambodia), Ms. Cynthia A. Layusa (NPC, FORIS the Philippines) and Dr. Edwin Tandiosa (FORIS, the Philippines)



and 3 other participants from FORIS Indonesia. There was a special session on invasive alien species which involved presentations of student projects funded by the FORIS project.. The primary purpose was to get as many students as possible interested in studying IAS. The symposium highlighted the low public awareness on the threats of IAS and suggested that the government should be more proactive in engaging international agencies as partners to develop global information networks that are accessible to the public.

Fourth International Steering Committee Meeting held in Bali, Indonesia

The Fourth International Steering Committee (4th ISC) Meeting of the FORIS Project was successfully held in Bali, Indonesia from the 10-11 December 2015. It was chaired by Mr. Max Zieren, UNEP. A total of 15 participants including members of Project Management Unit (PMU), key ISC members from BIOTROP and BioSecurity Queensland, National Project Directors or their representative (e.g the Philippines) and the National Project Coordinators from the four project countries attended the meeting. One of the key outputs of the meeting was the agreement in principle to the project extension up to September 2016. There was a general sense that, of late, good progress has been made in the project by the countries. Some of the Project’s



Best Practices were also highlighted as key outcomes in the Project. These were: Stakeholders and Community Integration to create awareness on *Piper aduncum* in the Philippines; Initiation of Habitat Restoration Activity inside the Stung Sen Core Area in Cambodia; Multistakeholder engagement at Baluran National Park in Indonesia and Policy and legal framework development in Vietnam. However, there are still some gaps that need to be bridged to ensure sustainability and collaboration in the future.

Country Updates

Cambodia

Public Awareness Raising on IAS

To fulfil the objectives of Component 3: National Capacity Building and Institutional Support, and Component 5: Information and Awareness Programme, during the No-Cost Extension, the FORIS Cambodia Project team provided successive trainings at private universities in provinces surrounding the Tonle Sap Lake comprising Kampong Chhnang, Pursat, Kampong Thom and Siem Reap in June 2016. The 4-province trainings gathered 389 participants (with 200 females). The purpose of the training is to increase and promote public awareness particularly university students and teachers, and government staff at provincial levels on the aspect of IAS management particularly the target *Mimosa pigra*. FORIS Cambodia Project has applied a various combination techniques at the pilot site and shared the experiences with the



participants. The training materials were produced and conducted based on the designed Training Modules and results of the Experimental Trial derived from the Pilot Site. Leaflets and posters were distributed to all participants, and Stand posters were also displayed during the courses. Questionnaire for pre and post assessment was designed and applied as well to measure the level of understanding of those university students and government staff.



The Philippines

National Capacity Building and Institutional Support

The FORIS Philippines established a network among educators and researchers for the integration of IAS-topics/ Invasion Biology into existing courses and school curricula. Likewise, it created a venue for researchers to present studies on IAS at the 25th Philippine Biodiversity Symposium. Seven scientific oral presentations, three poster presentations, and two plenary talks were delivered.

Four (4) new research grants have been awarded for the following research:

- ❖ Predicting Species Distribution and Habitat Suitability Modelling of Spiked Pepper (*Piper aduncum* L.) in the Philippines by Rowena Japitana, University of the Philippines-Los Banos
- ❖ Assessment of the Possible Effects of Biological Control Agents of *Lantana camara* and *Chromolaena odorata* in Davao City, Mindanao Island, Philippines by undergraduate students Cristine Casal, Crislene Gener and Bea Rosialda, Adamson University
- ❖ Predicting the Ecological Impacts of Six Invasive Alien Frogs in the Philippines and Southeast Asia and Establishing Risk Assessment Protocol for Conservation Planning, by Arman Pili, Mae Lowe Diesmos, University of Sto. Tomas
- ❖ Status, Distribution, and Niche Ecology of Invasive Alien Frogs in Davao Region, Mindanao Island, Elsa De Lima of San Pedro College, and Dr. Arvin Diesmos



Training on Invasive Plant Species Management in Jogjakarta

Training of Invasive Plant Species Management was held in Cakra Kembang Hotel, Yogyakarta and Mount Merapi National Park for about 8 days. The training consisted of classroom teaching and field practice. There were 21 participants from Various National Park in Java, Bali and Sumatera Islands, and others came from Quarantine Staffs, East Java. The training modules used for this training were developed by the Center for Forestry Training and Education and FORIS Indonesia. The modules contains 8 topics: 1) Introduction of Invasive Species; 2) Early Detection and Fast Response; 3) Eradication and Mitigation; 4) Restoration; 5) Policy of Invasive Species; 6) Prevention of Invasive Species; 7) Communication Strategy; 8) Monitoring and Evaluation. The main objective of the training is to deliver information concerning IAS management in protected area and also to share information and experience among the national parks staff, especially effort to control IAS in their working area. Training was officially opened by the Director of FRDC, Ir. Johan Utama Perbatasari, MM and officially closed by the Director of CFTE, Dr. Joko Purwanto, MM.



Youth for Conservation

Youth for Conservation is an educational program for students near Baluran National Park. The activities were carried out on the 2nd April 2016, took place in Bekol Savanna in Baluran National park. There were almost 100 students of Junior High School from four (4) districts. During this event the students obtained information about invasive plant species and its impacts towards the surrounding environment. Apart from the competition, the organizer also held a photography and poster competition. The competition day was officially opened by the Director of Biodiversity Conservation, Dr. Bambang Dahono Adjie, MSi.



Director General of FORDA and FORIS Indonesia team visit CABI SEA Regional Center

The Director General of Research, Development and Innovation Agency (FORDA), Dr. Henry Bastaman, together with Ir. Djohan Utama Perbatasari, MM., Director of Forest Research and Development Center (also the NPD, FORIS Indonesia) and Dr. Titiek Setyawati (NPC, FORIS Indonesia)



visited the CABI SEA regional centre on 24 June 2016. The meeting was to discuss on the progress of FORIS project and the strategy plan, potential collaboration to work with CABI for Invasive database in Indonesia and biological control application for Acacia in Indonesia. During the meeting, Dr. Sivapragasam introduced CABI and FORIS project activities to Dr. Henry. The discussion was fruitful with future extended collaboration with FORDA, especially on issues related to forestry and invasive species.

FORIS Internship program



Rheyda Hinlo-Arguelles from the University of Canberra, Australia underwent a one month internship in June, 2016 at the CABI SEA regional centre as part of a requirement of her PhD program. During the internship, Rheyda covered several areas of interests on IAS such as CABI's involvement with invasive species research and their management. She also did a review and situational analysis on the FORIS project, in addition to help develop a concept note on the potential applications of the environmental DNA (eDNA). This internship program gave Rheyda the opportunity to have a first-hand look at how CABI uses science and resources to tackle important IAS issues globally. To quote Rheyda 'it gave me new insights and motivation to pursue a career in science for international development and invasive alien species research abroad'.

Up coming events

Invasive Species Compendium (ISC) Training and 2nd Regional Bio-control workshop

The FORIS project will organize the ISC Training and Bio-control workshop of the Project in Bogor, Indonesia from the 15-19 August 2016. The venue of the training and workshop is in Bogor. A total of 20-25 participants including member of project management unit (PMU), resource persons and representatives from the four project countries are expected to participate in these events.

Fifth International Steering Committee (5th ISC) Meeting to be held in Yogyakarta, Indonesia

The FORIS project will organise the Fifth International Steering Committee (ISC) Meeting of the Project in Yogyakarta, Indonesia from the 19 September 2016. The venue of the meeting is in Yogyakarta. A total of 16 participants including member of project management unit (PMU), ISC members and National Project Directors and Coordinators from the four project countries will be attending the meeting.

Contact

Project Management Unit

Dr. Sivapragasam Annamalai
International Project
Coordinator
a.siva@cabi.org

Chan Hong-Twu
Project Administrator
h.chan@cabi.org

Morris Akiri
Regional Director, CABI Africa
m.akiri@cabi.org

Dr. Arne Witt
Invasive Species Coordinator
a.witt@cabi.org

Max Zieren
UNEP/GEF Regional
Focal Point and Project
Supervisor
max.zieren@unep.org

Lum Weng-Kiong
Project Accountant
l.kiong@cabi.org

National Project Coordinators

Dr. Ir. Titiek Setyawati
National Project Coordinator (Indonesia)
titiek2962@gmail.com

Ms. Ta Thi Kieu Anh
National Project Coordinator (Vietnam)
takieuanh@gmail.com

Mr. Seng Rathea
National Project Coordinator (Cambodia)
ratheaseng2007@gmail.com

Ms. Cynthia Adeline Layusa
National Project Coordinator (the
Philippines)
cynthia.layusa@gmail.com

Country collaborators

